AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows:

On Page 1 of the specification under Field of the Invention, please replace paragraph 1 with the following:

This invention relates to a sanitary product. More specifically, the invention relates to a sanitary product for use by women for the absorption of menstrual fluid ~~and such like~~.

On Page 3 of the specification, please replace the first paragraph with the following:

It can therefore be appreciated that neither tampons nor towels are ideal. However, the ~~applicant has recognised~~ present invention recognizes that a sanitary product combining some of the features of a tampon with some of the features of a towel can have many of the advantages, yet minimise the disadvantages, of both tampons and towels.

On Page 4 of the specification under Summary of the Invention, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 13 with the following:

According to the present invention, there is provided a sanitary product for insertion into a human vagina, the product comprising an internally ~~worn~~ wearable absorbent plug and an externally ~~worn~~ wearable absorbent pad jointed to one another by a sheath that opens through the pad and is resiliently expandable in a radial direction, but not in a longitudinal direction, such that a wearer's finger can be received in the sheath to assist insertion.

On Page 4 of the specification, please replace the paragraphs beginning at line 24, bridging pages 4 and 5, through page 5, line 15 with the following:

In the context of this invention, internally ~~worn~~ wearable means inside the vaginal cavity. In other words, it means inwardly of the vaginal orifice. Externally ~~worn~~ wearable means outside the vaginal cavity. In other words, it means outwardly of the vaginal orifice. It is actually preferred that the pad of the invention is ~~worn~~ wearable in the vulva, e. g. between the labia majora.

The sheath ~~might be referred to as a cover, sleeve or neck. It~~ is joined to an end of the plug that is nearest to the vaginal opening in use. It is also joined to the pad and opens through the pad so that a finger can be inserted into the sheath from the side of the pad that faces away from the body in use. This means that a wearer's finger can be inserted through the pad toward the end of the plug and movement of the inserted finger can easily manipulate the plug during insertion. Fitting the sanitary product of the invention is therefore far easier than fitting any previous combined sanitary product or, indeed, most tampons or sanitary towels. In particular, no separate introducer is needed and the product does not need to be held in place by adhesion to panties or by a belt.

On page 7 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 16 with the following:

Nonetheless, the sheath should be able to receive a finger, which is likely to have roughly the same or a slightly larger diameter than a small conventional tampon. ~~It is therefore particularly preferred that~~ The sheath is therefore resiliently expandable in a radial direction to receive a finger during insertion of the product into the vagina. For example, the sheath may be elastic in (only) a circumferential direction. (Significant elasticity in a longitudinal direction may be undesirable as it can lead to misplacement of the plug). More specifically, the absorbent and liquid impermeable tubes may be elastic in a circumferential direction.

On Page 8 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 5 with the following:

Whilst only insertion of the sanitary product has been discussed above, it should be evident that removal of the product can easily be achieved simply by pulling the pad outward. This will draw the plug out of the vagina. However, the ~~applicants have recognised~~ present invention recognizes that pulling the pad in this manner will almost inevitably cause the wearer to touch the side of the pad that is in contact with the vagina in use. This is undesirable. It is therefore preferred that the product further comprises a string attached to the plug to assist removal of the plug from the vagina. It is particularly preferred that the string extends along the inside of the sheath. The string can then extend through the pad and be accessible to a wearer at the opening of the sheath. When a wearer pulls on the string to remove the plug, there is no need to grasp the pad or plug, which improves hygiene.

On Page 9 of the specification, please replace the paragraphs beginning at line 14 through line 25 with the following:

The plug is similar in construction to a conventional tampon. For example, it typically comprises a wad of absorbent material. In other words, it is generally solid. Indeed, it is typically a solid cylinder, e. g. of compressed cotton ~~or such like~~.

As mentioned above, excess liquid may pass along the sheath from the plug to the pad. The ~~applicants have recognized~~ present invention recognizes that, even when a sheath of small diameter is provided for comfort, this passing of liquid from the plug to the pad allows the size of the plug to be minimized. Indeed, ~~the applicants consider that~~ sufficient absorption capacity can be provided in a plug substantially smaller than an average conventional tampon. It is therefore preferred that the plug is 4 cm in length or less and 2 cm in diameter or less.

On Page 10 of the specification, please delete the first paragraph beginning on line 2.

On Page 10 of the specification, please delete the last paragraph beginning on line 21:

On Page 11 of the specification, please replace the first paragraph with the following:

According to the present invention, there is also provided a method of manufacturing a sanitary product, the method comprising joining an internally ~~worn~~ wearable absorbent plug to an externally ~~worn~~ wearable absorbent pad by a sheath to produce the sanitary product described above.

On Page 11 of the specification under Brief Description of the Drawings, please replace the paragraphs on lines 15 and 16 with the following:

Figure 3 is a front view of the sanitary product of figure 1; ~~and~~

Figure 4 is a rear view of the sanitary product of figure 1; and

On Page 11 of the specification, after line 16, please insert the following new paragraph:

Figure 5 is a schematic cross-sectional view through a portion of the pad and sheath of the sanitary product of figure 2 in the area where the sheath joins the pad.

On Page 11 of the specification under Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 20, with the following:

Referring to figures 1 to [[4]] 5, a sanitary product 1 according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention comprises a plug 2 and pad 3 joined by a sheath 4.

On Page 13 of the specification, please replace the paragraphs beginning on line 1, bridging pages 13 and 14, through page 14, line 6 with the following paragraphs:

The pad 3 has an absorbent layer 3a on the inward side 9 and a liquid impermeable layer 3b on the outward side 10. In this embodiment, the absorbent layer 3a is made from compressed cotton and the liquid impermeable layer 3b is made from a polymeric material. Other suitable materials may be used as desired.

The pad 3 is typically 6.5 cm long and 5 cm wide at its largest dimensions. In other embodiments, these dimensions may vary within reasonable limits ; say 6cm to 7cm in length and 4.5cm to 5.5cm in width. The absorbent layer 3a is typically 0.5 cm thick and, as the liquid impermeable layer 3b has negligible thickness, the pad 3 is also typically 0.5cm thick overall. Again, in other embodiments, the thickness of the pad 3 might be between say 0.3cm to 0.7cm.

The sheath 4 is tubular and extends from the outward end 6 of the plug 2 to the pad 3. More specifically, the sheath 4 comprises a tube 4a of absorbent material with a layer of liquid impermeable material on its inside surface. In other words, there is a tube 4b of liquid impermeable material inside the tube 4a of absorbent material. The tube 4a of absorbent material extends to the inward surface 9 of the pad 3. Indeed, the absorbent material of the sheath 4 can be integral with the absorbent layer 3a of the pad 3. The tube 4b of liquid impermeable material extends through the pad 3 to the outward surface 10 of the pad 3. Indeed, the tube 4b of liquid impermeable material can be integral with the liquid impermeable backing of the pad 3.

The tube 4b of liquid impermeable material and hence the sheath 4 is open on the outward surface 10 of the pad 3. An opening 11 formed by the sheath 6 on the outward surface 10 of the pad 3 can be seen in figure 4. In this embodiment, the tube of liquid impermeable material is closed where it joins the plug 2. This prevents liquid absorbed by the plug 2 passing into the inside of the sheath 4.

On Page 14 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 13 with the following:

The diameter of the sheath 4 is smaller than that of the plug 2. More specifically, the external diameter of the sheath 4 at its smallest dimension might be 0.4cm, although this might vary from say 0.2cm to 0.8cm in other embodiments. The small diameter is required to improve the comfort of the product 1 in the region of the vaginal orifice. However, this small diameter is clearly too small to allow a finger to be accommodated inside the sheath 4. The sheath 4 is therefore expandable in a radial direction. This is accomplished by the sheath 4 being elastic in the radial direction. In one embodiment, an elastic tube (not shown) is provided between the absorbent tube 4a and the liquid impermeable tube 4b of the sheath 4. In other embodiments, either or both of the absorbent and liquid impermeable tubes 4a, 4b of the sheath 4 are themselves elastic.

On Page 16 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 14 with the following:

The described embodiments of the invention are only examples of how the invention may be implemented. Modifications, variations and changes to the described embodiments will occur to those having appropriate skills and knowledge. These modifications, variations and changes may be made without departure from ~~the spirit and scope~~ of the invention defined in the claims and its equivalents.